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# WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT



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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the

## YEAR 1956



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector  
A. J. STROUD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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# WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1956

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,738
Population, 1951 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,222
Population, 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,810
Number of separate dwellings occupied, 1931 (census)	..	..					5,396
Number of separate dwellings occupied, 1956 (census)	..	..					9,709
Rateable value, 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	£351,338
Product of a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,360

LIVE BIRTHS.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	407	198	209	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	17	11	6	
					424	209	215	14.71

STILLBIRTHS.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	6	2	4	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	—	
					7	3	4	0.24

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
DEATHS (all causes)	..	..	..		346	163	183	12.00

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES— rate per 1,000.

Total (Live and Still) Births								
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	..				—	—	—	
Other puerperal causes	..	..			—	—	—	Nil

### INFANT MORTALITY—rate for 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	8	5	3	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	—	
					9	6	3	21.22

Deaths from (a) Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..					62
„ „ (b) Measles (all ages)	..	..	..					Nil
„ „ (c) Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..					Nil
„ „ (d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..					1

# Wellingborough Urban District Council

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## *Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee :*

MESSRS. R. ALDERSON (*Chairman*), MISS E. A. HORN, (*Vice-Chairman*), C. B. BROWN, A. E. DICKS, H. A. HORDEN, A. L. LANGHAM, A. J. MAYES (died 9.2.57), R. D. PATERSON, E. A. STEELE, G. R. VERNON, H. C. L. WARWICK, B. KIRBY (from 28.3.57).

## *Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

## *also holds appointments of*

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

School Medical Officer.

## *Secretary :*

MISS J. PEARSON.

## *Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :*

A. J. STROUD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

## *Additional Public Health Inspector :*

D. B. HOPKINS, M.A.P.H.I., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.



Health Department,  
Swanspool,  
Wellingborough.

*June, 1957.*

**To Madam, Chairman and Members of the Wellingborough Urban District Council:**

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my ninth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1956.

Before proceeding with my report I should like to pay tribute to the late Councillor A. J. Mayes, a member of the Health Committee who died during the year. Mr. Mayes served on this Committee for a number of years and always took a keen interest in health matters affecting the town.

The Vital Statistics for the year are given in Section A. In this section it will be seen that the death rate for the year was 12.00 per 1,000 population compared with 11.43 in the previous year. The Infant Mortality rate was 21.22 per 1,000 live births and was higher than in the previous year when it was 12.43. It will be remembered that this was one of the lowest rates ever recorded. It is interesting to note the rate over the years, which is given in this section as far back as 1934 when it was 65 per 1,000 live births. An average taken over the past ten years gives a rate of 26.77. The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 23.8. It will be seen in Section H, Table No. 9 which gives the causes of infant deaths and ages in weeks, that seven of the deaths occurred within 28 days of independent existence.

The birth rate for the year was 14.71 per 1,000 population compared with 13.96 in the previous year. No deaths were recorded from maternal causes. Once again the chief cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, which accounted for 56.06% of the deaths recorded. The number of deaths from Cancer showed an increase of 17 over the previous year and as will be seen from Table No. 1 in Section H six of these deaths were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. This is two more than in the previous year. Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis continue to decline.

Details concerning the Health Services available are given in Section B.

In Section C, which deals with the sanitary circumstances of the area, a short account is given of the water supply for the town. The Pitsford Reservoir was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, during the year, and Wellingborough now draws its water from this source. The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, which are responsible for the town's supply, have undoubtedly accomplished a great achievement in the construction of Pitsford Reservoir and purification plant and the whole county should, in the future, benefit from their enterprise. The importance of a safe and adequate water supply to the community cannot be over-emphasised.

Atmospheric pollution and its abatement is very much in the public eye at present. Pure air is almost as important as pure water. Pollution of



the atmosphere can be the cause of much chronic ill health. It will be seen in the report dealing with this subject that the Council have had a considerable degree of success in dealing with the problem in connection with the Local Iron Works. The average monthly figures from the deposit gauges situated at the four different sites shows a very definite improvement over the previous year. Offending factory chimneys are now receiving more attention and it is hoped that pollution from these sources will, in the future, cease. The problem of the domestic chimney will have to be tackled before one can say that the atmosphere, like the water supply, is satisfactory.

In Section D information is given with regard to the number of houses built by the Council during the year and also the number of houses built privately. In Section A the housing factor for the area is given and this is 2.9 persons per house, which is quite low. An account of the work carried out under Slum Clearance is also given and the Council is working through its five year programme.

Details of food inspection, including meat inspection, will be found in Section E, and one hundred per cent. inspection of all carcasses was carried out.

Section F deals with infectious diseases. From this section will be seen once again the most prevalent infectious disease was measles, although the number of cases was considerably less than in the previous year. Scarlet Fever and Dysentery were the only two infectious diseases to show a slight increase, 20 cases compared with 17 of Scarlet Fever, and 17 compared with 11 of Dysentery occurring. Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified compared with five in 1955. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was commenced during the year and it is hoped that this scheme will be successful in the future.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year. I should also like to thank the other officers of the Council for information supplied for this report and Miss Pearson for her assistance in compiling this report, and finally I should like to thank Mr. Stroud for his help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant.

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

**AREA.**—The Wellingborough Urban District covers 8,738 acres. The density of population per acre is 3.2 persons and the housing factor is 2.9 persons per house.

**POPULATION.**—The estimated population given in the Registrar-General's return for 1956 is 28,810. This figure again shows an increase over the previous year by 30 persons. Births outnumbered deaths by 78 during the year.

**DEATHS.**—346 deaths occurred in the district during the year. This gives a death rate of 12.00 per thousand population and is higher than the previous year when the rate was 11.43. The death rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 11.7. In Section H Table No. 1 gives a classification of causes of death and Table No. 2 gives further statistics concerning deaths from selected causes. From Table No. 1 it will be seen that once again the chief cause of death was Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System. This accounted for 194 deaths out of 346 which is 56.06%. The following shows the percentage of deaths from certain diseases :

	1956	1955
Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System ..	56.06%	58.66%
Diseases of the Respiratory System .. ..	7.51%	6.38%
Cancer .. .. .	17.91%	13.67%
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	.86%	1.51%

Coronary disease and Angina caused 59 deaths compared with 63 in the previous year. The number of deaths from Cancer was 62 compared with 45 in the previous year.

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cancer Deaths .. ..	58	56	45	62
Neoplasm lung or bronchus	11	7	4	6
		(1 female)	(1 female)	(1 female)

**BIRTHS.**—424 live births were recorded during the year and this gives a rate of 14.71 per thousand population, compared with 13.96 in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 15.7. In 1956 in the district female births outnumbered male births by 215 to 209.

**ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.**—17 illegitimate births were recorded which gives a rate of 40.09 per thousand live births. The rate for the previous year was 44.77.

**STILLBIRTHS.**—Seven stillbirths were registered during the period and this gives a rate of 0.24 per 1,000 of population compared with 0.38 in the previous year.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.**—It is pleasing to report that no deaths occurred under this heading. In the previous year there was one death and the rate was 2.42 per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths).



INFANT MORTALITY.—Nine deaths occurred under one year of age which gives a rate of 21.22 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 12.43 which as reported last year, was one of the lowest Infant Mortality rates recorded for the district. The rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 23.8. The following table shows the Infant Mortality rate for Wellingborough over a number of years :

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	War years	1946	1947	1948	1949
65	64.3	38.8	22.6	46.6		28.16	35.99	29.64	32.89
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956			
35.62	29.05	23.04	17.5	23.47	12.43	21.22			

NEONATAL MORTALITY.—This sub-division of the Infant Mortality rate includes infant deaths within 28 days of independent existence. Seven of the 9 infant deaths come under this sub-division and gives a rate of 16.50 per 1,000 births compared with 2.48 in the previous year. Table No. 9 in Section H gives further information concerning infant deaths.



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

**LABORATORY SERVICES.**—The area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and the Laboratory at Kettering General Hospital. To facilitate the area Kettering have a laboratory at the Park Hospital to which specimens can be sent direct. The assistance received from Dr. Hoyle and Dr. Voss during the year was much appreciated.

**DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.**—Stocks are still kept in case of need by general practitioners at the following places :

Northampton General Hospital,  
Kettering General Hospital,  
Wellingborough Hospital.

The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are responsible for these supplies.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE.**—The County Council is responsible for this service and the H.Q. for the Wellingborough area is at the Church Street Dépôt.

**NURSING AND HOME HELPS.**—These services are provided by the County Council and the assistance received from the County Medical Officer with regard to cases referred for Home Helps is much appreciated.

**TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**—A list of the following Clinics held in the area is as follows :

*Oxford Street Health Centre, Wellingborough.*—This Health Centre is run by the County Council. The following Clinics are held :—

Ante-natal	}	Every Monday afternoon 1.30 p.m.
and Post-natal		Every Thursday morning 9.30 a.m.
Child Welfare		Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Monday, 2.00 p.m.
Child Guidance		Alternate Tuesdays 12.30 p.m.

*St. Andrews Hall, Croyland Estate, Infant Welfare Centre.*—Held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 2.00 p.m.

*Finedon.*—Infant Welfare Centre held on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Co-operative Hall.

ROCK STREET CLINIC	Tuberculosis	Every Monday 10 a.m.
		Every Wednesday 10 a.m.
	U.V.R.	Every Friday 2 p.m.
ROCK STREET CLINIC	Orthopædic	Every Wednesday 2 p.m.

A psychiatric outpatients clinic will commence at Rock Street Clinic on Thursday, 13th June, 1957. This clinic will be held weekly on each Thursday from 2.15 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the area. Arrangements provided are as follows :—

*General Hospitals.*—Northampton and Kettering.

*Wellingborough.*—Wellingborough Hospital, Gynæcology and children.

*Highfield Hospital.*—Acute Medical cases and skins.

*Wellingborough Park Hospital.*—Chronic sick, the aged and Old Persons in need of care and attention. Further accommodation for such cases is also provided at St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering, and Oundle.

A Maternity block for Midwifery cases from the area is also situated at the Park Hospital.

*Tuberculosis.*—The Rushden Sanatorium provides accommodation for cases from the area.

Out Patient facilities are provided at the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden, which is visited by consultants from Northampton and Kettering.

*Infectious Diseases.*—The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, provides accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases from the area requiring isolation and hospital treatment.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.—No action was necessary under Section 47 of this Act but a number of cases were dealt with and persuaded in their own interest to enter the Park Hospital.

The Old Folks' Welfare Committee continues to do much good work in the town and Darby and Joan Clubs are held and the chiropody service run.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The inauguration of the Pitsford Works by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, took place on the 25th October, 1956. Wellingborough now receives its supply from this source and the previous sources of supply for the town have been discontinued.

The reservoir is constructed about five miles north of Northampton in a valley on a tributary of the Brampton branch of the River Nene. The area of the gathering ground is about 19 square miles and is mostly agricultural land in character with a certain amount of ironstone quarrying. The reservoir was formed by the construction of an earthen embankment across a valley about 1,900 feet in length and having a maximum height of 56 feet above original ground level. This dam is made watertight by a wall of puddle clay with a minimum thickness of 15 feet at the bottom of the deepest section. The dam is faced on the upstream side with precast concrete blocks to withstand wave action. This reservoir will hold about 4,000 million gallons. Water from the reservoir flows to a raw water pumping station below the dam and is then pumped to the treatment works which are situated at the southern end and above the reservoir. The treatment works consist of a chemical block, reaction tanks, filters, filtered water tank and pumping station. The water when softened is passed through open rapid gravity filters and then to the filtered water tank for sterilisation by chlorine. Water thus treated is pumped into three trunk mains for distribution. During the course of the year I paid a number of visits at the invitation of Mr. L. Brown, Engineer and Manager to the Board and at the invitation of the Water Board to the inauguration of the works. I am grateful to the Board for these opportunities afforded to study this great undertaking which in the future will mean so much to the County in securing a safe and adequate water supply.

**WATER SAMPLES.**—The following water samples were taken in the Wellingborough area during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton for bacteriological examination :

<i>Total</i>	<i>Very satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
77	62	7	5	3

The three unsatisfactory samples gave a presumptive B. Coli count but no faecal coli. The Engineer and Manager of the Board is informed of any unsatisfactory count and the matter investigated. The Board also take routine samples for bacteriological examination in the Wellingborough area. Complaints were received concerning deposits of lime in the water supplies during the year and this was caused by the plant at Bushfield. Action was taken as necessary and mains flushed out. With the change over to Pitsford no further troubles from this source should occur.

**RAINFALL.**—The rainfall recorded for the year at Swanspool Gardens was 24.97 inches, compared with 19.09 for the previous year. The rainfall over the past five years was as follows :

<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
25.8	18.77	29.06	19.09	24.97



It is estimated that the long term average rainfall in the area of the Pitsford reservoir should be about 25.3 inches. The average yearly rainfall over the last 35 years in this area is 24.58 inches.

The number of houses in the Wellingborough area with a piped water supply is 9,540. The number depending on standpipes is 135 and the number of houses without town's supply is 34.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—

*Wellingborough.*—There has been no change in the method in use for dealing with the sewage from the Town. Sewage is pumped up to tanks situated on the highest part of the Irthlingborough sewage farm and then is gravitated to whatever part of the farm is being used, where land irrigation takes place. The final effluent is collected by means of agricultural drains and led to an outlet into the River Nene. A chemical analysis of final effluent carried out on 2nd March, 1956, gave the following results :

Suspended matter	..	..	..	minute traces only.
Biological oxygen demand (5 days' test)	..	..	..	0.6 parts per 100,000

This result is well within the standards suggested by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

*Finedon.*—The situation remains the same as reported in last year's Annual Report. An analysis of final effluent taken from these works on 2nd March, 1956, gave the following results :

Suspended matter	..	..	..	5.6 parts per 100,000
B.O.D. (5 days' test)	..	..	..	3 parts per 100,000

It will be seen that this effluent exceeds both the suggested limits which are as follows :

Suspended matter	..	..	..	3 parts per 100,000
B.O.D.	..	..	..	2 parts per 100,000

Figures concerning quantity of sewage pumped by the two stations during the years were as follows :

Sewage pumping station, Irthlingborough Road	..	191,927,760
Cattle Market	.. .. .	212,660,000
Average Daily Total	.. .. .	1,108,460

DISINFECTION.—15 premises were disinfected and 95 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., were treated by steam disinfection during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.—Routine samples were taken during the season from Wilby and Overstone Swimming Pools. These samples were satisfactory. Samples were also taken from the Swimming Baths at the School and the School Authorities informed of the results. The padding pool at the Zoo Park was kept under observation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, S. 269.—Five licences were granted during the year in respect of the parking of caravans. There are six caravan sites occupied by persons engaged in show business in the area. These sites are situated as follows :

Jackson's Lane; Broad Green; John Street (2 sites); Finedon Road; and Orchard Road, Finedon.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Seven vehicles and 27 men were employed upon the collection and disposal of refuse during the year.

4,200 loads weighing 8,850 tons of refuse were collected in the area and tipped at the Gipsy Lane No. 2 site and the Northampton Road Claypit. Both tips were well controlled.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.—To record atmospheric pollution four deposit gauges and two instruments for recording the sulphur dioxide figures are maintained in the area. The two lead peroxide instruments for recording the concentration of atmospheric sulphur are situated at Broad Green and St. Andrew's Crescent on the new housing estate. The figures recorded at the two sites are very similar showing seasonal variations with maximum figures during the winter months when domestic coal fires are in general use. This proves the point which is well known that a large percentage of atmospheric pollution is caused by the domestic fire.

The four deposit gauges are situated at the following sites and are used in connection with investigations into atmospheric pollution caused by the local Iron Works—(1) Hillside Road; (2) Cooling Tower; (3) Highfield Hospital; (4) Council Depot.

The average monthly deposit given in tons per square mile collected at the four stations over the last four years was as follows :

	<i>Hilside Road</i>	<i>Cooling Tower</i>	<i>Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Council Depot</i>
1956	19.69	22.44	11.49	10.74
1955	45.68	32.88	14.29	14.29
1954	56.96	73.13	14.26	11.70
1953	54.29	87.17	14.93	12.66

These figures give the following averages over the four years :

1956	..	16.09
1955	..	26.78
1954	..	39.01
1953	..	42.26

These figures speak for themselves and this improvement has been brought about by the co-operation of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds in applying cyclones to the furnaces which prevent to a large extent small iron particles and dust being belched out into the atmosphere.

There are a number of factory chimneys throughout the area which require observation as they give rise to a nuisance from time to time. Now that the public are becoming more clean air minded all possible steps should be taken to deal with all sources of atmospheric pollution as they occur and to bring about gradually an improvement in conditions.



## SECTION D.

### HOUSING

The situation on the 31st December, 1956, with regard to applicants for Council houses in the area was as follows :

<i>Applicants</i> <i>Present accommodation</i>	<i>31st December, 1956</i> <i>Awaiting consideration</i>	<i>Selected but</i> <i>not housed</i>
Class 1 or 2 houses ..	179	1
Class 3 houses .. ..	42	2
Class 4 houses .. ..	4	4
Houses outside area ..	91	4
Rooms .. .. .	337	29
Clearance Area .. ..	—	3
Cottage Property .. ..	—	3
<i>Totals</i> .. ..	<u>653</u>	<u>46</u>

This figure shows a decrease of 38 on that at the end of the previous year.

The situation at Finedon at the end of the year was as follows :

<i>Applicants</i> <i>Present accommodation</i>	<i>31st December, 1956</i> <i>awaiting consideration</i>	<i>Selected but</i> <i>not housed</i>
Class 1 or 2 houses ..	16	—
Class 3 houses .. ..	18	1
Class 4 houses .. ..	2	—
Houses outside area ..	4	—
Rooms .. .. .	38	5
Clearance Areas .. ..	—	32
Cottage Property .. ..	—	6
<i>Totals</i> .. ..	<u>78</u>	<u>44</u>

The number of applicants shows a fall of 47 on the figures for the end of 1955.

The Post-War Housing progress on 31st December, 1956, was as follows :

	<i>Council</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Total</i>
Completed during the year .. ..	24	152	176
The figures for the previous year were:	147	60	207

The Post-War Housing progress is as follows :

Completed since the War .. .. (including 95 temporary houses)	1,366	490	1,856
Under construction on 31.12.56 ..	140	91	231



SLUM CLEARANCE.—During the year official representations were made to the Council concerning the following areas :

- (1) Hatton Gardens—4 houses.
- (2) Oxford Street, Cross Street and Wood Street—12 houses.
- (3) Cannon Street—10 houses.
- (4) Jackson's Lane—3 houses.
- (5) Orchard Terrace, High Street—4 houses.

All these Orders were confirmed by the Ministry and await demolition. A Hearing was held by a Ministry Inspector with regard to Cannon Street and Orchard Terrace.

SINGLE UNFIT HOUSES, SECTION 11 OF HOUSING ACT :—The number of demolition orders made during the period was one. Two Closing Orders were made with reference to parts of buildings deemed unfit for human habitation.

## SECTION E.

### SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

MILK.—71 samples of milk were taken during the year for examination for keeping quality. 45 samples passed the test and 26 failed. Follow-up action was taken with regard to the samples that failed. One sample of sterilised milk was taken for examination and this passed.

WASHED BOTTLE RINSES.—24 samples of rinses from washed bottles were taken for bacteriological counts and the results were as follows :

<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Fairly Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
24	Nil	Nil

A high proportion of the milk sold in Wellingborough is pasteurised.

ICE-CREAM.—Five samples were taken during the season. The results were as follows :

<i>Provision Grade</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
	3	1	1	

Two Ice Lollies were also examined and both gave satisfactory results. In Section Two of this report further information will be found concerning routine inspections of Food premises by the Public Health Inspectors.

MEAT INSPECTION.—There are eight licensed slaughterhouses in the area. A hundred per cent. inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption is carried out. During the year the following number of inspections of carcasses were made :

<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Calves</i>
587	12,865	2,484	4

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption was : 4 tons 3 cwts. 16 lbs.

Tubercular infection was the reason for condemning three complete carcasses of beasts, 37 parts of beasts and 281 parts of pigs. Other causes—4 complete carcasses of pigs.

Condemned in part :  
72 Cattle,  
14 Sheep,  
375 Pigs.

Five cases of cystercircus bovis were discovered and treated as necessary. Further details concerning this work will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, but the importance of this work in protecting the community is shown by the amount of meat found at inspection to be unfit for human consumption.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALLPOX.—No cases have occurred for many years.

VACCINATION.—The following number of vaccinations were carried out in the district during the year :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 yrs. or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	174	4	6	19	31	234
Re-vaccination	—	—	2	9	69	80
						314

The figures for 1955 were :

Primary	191	4	9	15	49	268
Re-vaccination	—	—	4	5	81	90
						358

Last year's figures were the highest recorded for many years and it is pleasing to note that although there was a slight fall in 1956 the numbers are still up compared with other years.

SCARLET FEVER.—Twenty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with sixteen in the previous year. One case was removed to hospital. The cases were spread throughout the months of the year.

DIPHTHERIA.—The last case of Diphtheria occurred in the area five years ago. This fact demonstrates the advisability of making every effort to maintain a high immunisation rate.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.—The following table gives the number of children in the different age groups who have completed a full course of inoculations against Diphtheria on 31st December, 1956 :

Age at 31.12.56 <i>i.e.</i> born in year	<i>Under</i> <i>1 1 2 3 4</i> 1956 1955 1954 1953 1952					<i>5 to 9</i> 1947-1951	<i>10 to 14</i> 1942-1946	<i>Total</i> <i>Under 15</i>
Number Immunised	50	244	274	300	325	1,704	1,442	4,339

An Immunisation Clinic is held on the second Saturday of the month at 9.30 a.m. at the Oxford Street Clinic.



The number of immunisations carried out during the year were as follows :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
Diphtheria	20	5	8	3	1	20	5	62	200
Combined									
Diphtheria/Pertussis	204	49	29	8	4	5	1	300	59
Total Diphtheria									
Immunisation	224	54	37	11	5	25	6	362	259
Whooping Cough only	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	

WHOOPING COUGH.—Four cases were notified compared with 51 in the previous year.

MEASLES.—241 cases of measles were notified compared with 479 in the previous year. Two cases were removed to hospital. No deaths occurred from this cause. The majority of cases occurred in the early months of the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Seven cases were notified compared with twelve in the previous year. Cases were spread throughout the year.

PNEUMONIA.—34 cases were notified compared with 46 in the previous year. Eight deaths were recorded during the year giving pneumonia as a contributory factor. There were six deaths in the previous year.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.—No cases occurred.

ERYSIPELAS.—Six cases were notified. In the previous year there were 17 cases.

INFLUENZA.—Although this is not notifiable if an epidemic occurs the figures are available. Two deaths were attributed to this cause compared with six in the previous year,

DYSENTERY.—17 cases were notified compared with 11 in the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS.—One case was notified compared with five in the previous year. The case was of the paralytic form and was removed to hospital.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.—In May and June of 1956 the British vaccine for vaccination against poliomyelitis was produced. This vaccine differs slightly from the Salk vaccine which is widely used in America and Canada, in that one of the viruses Type 1 Mahoney is not included. The vaccine consists of killed viruses and the laboratory tests carried out before use are very extensive. This has led to a delay in the quantity available. Considerable controversy took place in the National Press when vaccine was first introduced, but with a pilot scheme of the magnitude of that carried out in America and Canada, this appeared to be rather groundless. This vaccination is the first step in a war against poliomyelitis and should be encouraged. At first parents were slow to avail of the opportunity of having their children inoculated but with the passage of time the situation has changed and in the year of writing this report large numbers of children have been inoculated.

Poliomyelitis vaccination figures for 1956 were as follows :

2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	Total
6	3	11	63	83

The vaccine is given intra-muscularly in two doses both of 1 c.c., at monthly intervals, and the left upper arm is recommended as the site of inoculation.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**—No cases have been notified for three years in the area.

**FOOD POISONING.**—No notifications were received.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—Fifteen cases of Tuberculosis were notified compared with 17 in the previous year. All these cases were pulmonary tuberculosis and no new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred. Table No. 8 in Section H shows the age groups affected and also gives information concerning deaths from this cause.

The number of cases admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium during the year was 17 and the number discharged was 22.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was as follows :

				Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	..	..	..	93	60	153
Non-Pulmonary		..	..	22	16	38
						<hr/> 191 <hr/>

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the last ten years were :

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
22	11	19	17	23	11	24	16	17	15

The mortality figures from Wellingborough and the County for the same period was as follows :

Year	Tuberculosis—All forms			Rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	Wellingboro'	County
1948	4	6	10	.35	.42
1949	5	3	8	.28	.43
1950	7	—	7	.24	.30
1951	7	4	11	.38	.26
1952	3	3	6	.21	.25
1953	5	2	7	.24	.18
1954	2	2	4	.13	.12
1955	2	3	5	.17	.09
1956	3	—	3	.14	—

The Wellingborough After-Care Committee continues to carry out its good work for sufferers from this disease in the area.

## SECTION G.

### THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Information concerning factories in the area will be found in Section H, Table No. 10. From this table it will be seen that there are 208 factories on the register, two more than in the previous year. 39 Inspections were carried out and five written notices served. Eight cases were referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories concerning insufficient or defective sanitary conveniences and these matters were dealt with. The number of outworkers on the August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) was 521 which is six more than last year. No complaints were received concerning factories where mechanical power is not used regarding cleanliness, drainage, ventilation or temperature.

Further details concerning this section will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.



# SECTION H.

## STATISTICAL TABLES, 1956

TABLE NO. 1.

### CAUSES OF DEATH

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	—	3	3
2. Tuberculosis, other .. ..	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .. ..	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—
8. Measles .. ..	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	10	1	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. ..	21	17	38
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia .. ..	1	1	2
16. Diabetes .. ..	1	3	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	21	37	58
18. Coronary disease, angina .. ..	35	24	59
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	6	9
20. Other heart diseases .. ..	23	38	61
21. Other circulatory diseases .. ..	3	4	7
22. Influenza .. ..	2	—	2
23. Pneumonia .. ..	3	5	8
24. Bronchitis .. ..	10	5	15
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	3	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	3	—	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and neprosis .. ..	3	2	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—
31. Congenial malformations .. ..	2	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	18	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	1	—	1
34. All other accidents .. ..	3	3	6
35. Suicide .. ..	—	4	4
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES .. ..	163	183	346

# DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES

TABLE No. 2

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	.07	6	.21	66	2.38	149	5.37	25	.90
1947	1	.03	7	.24	53	1.88	173	6.14	24	.85
1948	1	.03	9	.31	50	1.77	166	5.87	35	1.23
1949	1	.03	7	.24	61	2.16	183	6.48	32	1.13
1950	—	—	7	.24	68	2.40	204	7.21	33	1.16
1951	1	.03	10	.35	54	1.90	133	4.69	35	1.23
1952	—	—	6	.21	53	1.87	199	7.04	28	.99
1953	1	.03	6	.21	58	2.03	229	8.02	30	1.05
1954	—	—	4	.13	56	1.95	200	6.97	34	1.18
1955	—	—	5	.17	45	1.56	193	6.70	21	.72
1956	—	—	3	.14	62	2.15	194	6.73	26	.90

# COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH

TABLE No. 3

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total Births live and still		
1946	.54	29.29	62.37	1,004
1947	.53	12.98	65.72	1,022
1948	.46	13.63	49.40	1,000
1949	.21	22.93	41.66	1,111
1950	.42	12.34	40.38	1,136
1951	.56	25.04	60.53	1,096
1952	.21	22.93	34.56	1,333
1953	.17	37.29	35.00	1,285
1954	.34	27.71	39.90	1,206
1955	.38	26.63	44.77	1,138
1956	.24	16.00	40.09	<del>1,028</del> 972

# VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

TABLE NO. 4

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	27,740	497	17.91	14	28.16	345	12.43
1947	28,170	639	22.68	23	35.99	346	12.28
1948	28,240	506	17.91	15	29.64	335	11.86
1949	28,200	456	16.20	15	32.89	366	12.97
1950	28,290	421	14.88	15	35.62	381	13.46
1951	28,380	413	14.55	12	29.05	361	12.72
1952	28,250	434	15.36	10	23.04	334	11.82
1953	28,520	400	14.02	7	17.5	388	13.60
1954	28,670	426	14.85	10	23.47	349	12.10
1955	28,780	402	13.96	5	12.43	329	11.43
1956	28,810	424	14.71	9	21.22	346	12.00

## AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1956.

TABLE NO. 5.

Disease	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	1	1	4	10	1	—	2	—	—	—	20	1	—
Pneumonia ..	—	2	2	1	—	5	—	1	3	6	8	6	34	—	8
Measles .. ..	3	30	36	26	39	95	8	2	2	—	—	—	241	2	—
Whooping Cough	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	6	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	7	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	—	—	—	—	2	9	—	—	4	1	1	—	17	2	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	5	34	39	28	46	119	9	4	19	8	12	7	330	6	8



# MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1956.

TABLE No. 6

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	3	2	2	2	1	—	1	1	1	3	1	3	20
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	8	10	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	2	34
Measles .. .. .	37	41	41	96	20	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	241
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	7
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	1	—	—	—	3	17
Food Poisoning .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	45	53	53	104	23	6	16	2	7	4	7	10	330

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH  
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE

TABLE NO. 7.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
—6 months	—	—	—	—
—12 months	2	1	2	—
—18 months	7	13	—	—
—2 years	4	6	—	1
—2½ years	12	16	—	—
—3 years	5	3	—	—
—4 years	10	16	—	—
—5 years	18	21	—	1
—10 years	51	44	—	—
—15 years	6	2	—	—
15 years+	3	1	—	—
ALL AGES	118	123	2	2
TOTALS	241		4	

# NEW CASES OF, AND DEATHS FROM, TUBERCULOSIS, 1956

TABLE No. 8.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
—25	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
—35	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
—45	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	7	—	—	3	—	—	—

One extra death (female) assigned by Registrar General in his returns.



# CAUSES OF DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

TABLE No. 9.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Age in weeks</i>					
	<i>-1</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>-3</i>	<i>-4</i>	<i>5-52</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	2	3
Enteritis and Diarrhœa ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth .. ..	4	—	—	—	—	4
Injury at Birth .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia and Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Debility .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hæmolytic Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .. .. .	7	—	—	—	2	9

TABLE No. 10.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948  
for the year 1956.

## PART I. OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	20	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	179	34	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	9	4	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	208	39	5	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					—
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	1	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	6	7	—	6	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	7	8	—	8	—

TABLE No. 10—*continued*.

## PART VIII. OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel—						
Making, etc. . . . .	407	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning & Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains & Furniture hangings . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc. . . . .	113	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL . . . .</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1956

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A. J. STROUD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

# Chief Public Health Inspector's Department

STAFF, 1956

*Chief Public Health Inspector :*

A. J. STROUD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.\*

Also Authorised Officer under the Shops,  
Petroleum, Theatres and Cinematograph Acts.

*Additional Public Health Inspector :*

D. B. HOPKINS, M.A.P.H.I.\*

*Clerk and Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary :*

MRS. H. M. FELL (resigned 2.8.56)

MISS J. M. JOHNSON (Appointed 10.9.56)

*Pest Control—Operative :*

C. LAWRENCE

*General Assistant (Manual) :*

VACANT.

\* Certified Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Wellingborough :  
MADAM CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Tenth Annual Report for the year 1956. As hitherto it is compiled to comply with the Ministry of Health's requirements, with statistical data and other information with regard to the public health services, and of the work carried out by the Department during the year.

The year under review was on the whole a busy and important one. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into force on 1st January, the new Clean Air Act received Royal Assent, and part of it became operative at the end of the year; and in addition a new Rent Bill was introduced. All these are measures which will very materially affect the work of the public health inspector in the years immediately ahead. There are now better tools with which to do the work, and although one may still see some defects in the picture, there has never been a time of greater opportunity for progress and the attaining of new standards particularly with regard to Housing and Food. One regret, however, is that owing to the present demands upon the department and with limitation of staff, it has not been possible to devote adequate time to the many ramifications of one's office, for in practice the amount of advisory and enforcement work which can be effectively carried out depends to a large extent on the availability of "man hours" rather than the lack of opportunity. One therefore looks to the future with some apprehension.

In the field of Housing, the first stage of the five-year slum clearance programme got under way, and will engage attention for some years to come. Meat Inspection again occupies a prominent place in the text of the report. There was an increase of some 11% in the number of animals slaughtered and inspected but, I am pleased to report that 100% inspection was carried out. This was made possible only by overtime work.

An Act was passed giving effect to a change of the statutory designation of "sanitary inspector". This is to be generally welcomed in that it is designed to more adequately represent in the mind of the general public the character of the office of public health inspector today.

I should like to record my indebtedness to Mr. Hopkins my Additional Inspector for the invaluable assistance he has given me during the year, and the other officers of the Council for their help in matters of mutual interest.

I also take the opportunity of thanking the Health and General Purposes Committee, and the Council for their further consideration and support and should especially like to record my appreciation of the help and support given me by Councillor Warwick during the last ten years he occupied the chair of the Health Committee.

I am, Madam Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEC J. STROUD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

Council Offices,

Swanspool,

Wellingborough.

July, 1957.



TABLE A.  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	253
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Secondary Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Written Communications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,350
Written Communications dispatched	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,677

TABLE B.  
SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) *General Public Health Work :*

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	412
Closet Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Refuse—Storage, collection and disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Common yards and passages	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Rivers Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Air Pollution and Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Keeping of Animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Offensive Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Vermin and Insect Pests—Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

(b) *Housing :*

Inspection of Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	509
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

(c) *Shops Act, 1950 :*

Sanitary Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
---------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

(d) *Factories Act, 1937 :*

Inspection of Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

(e) *Food Inspection and Control :*

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,004
Other Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	79

*Hygiene of Food Premises :—*

Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Market Stalls and Street Food Vendors	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Food Manufacturing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Catering Establishments and Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dairies, Milk Shops and Milk Distribution	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

*Sampling :—*

Milk, Ice Cream and Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
---------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

(f) *Other Visits :*

Pet Animals Act .. .. .	3
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act .. ..	1
Rodent Infestation Control (including visits by rodent operative) .. .. .	1,186
Removal of Unsound Food .. .. .	65
Shops Act—Closing Hours, Employment of Young Persons, etc. .. .. .	16
Nuisances—Unclassified .. .. .	40
(f) <i>Miscellaneous Visits</i> .. .. .	156
(h) <i>Interviews</i> .. .. .	159
Total Visits and Inspections .. .. .	4,115

TABLE C.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED  
FOLLOWING SERVICE OF NOTICE

*General :*

Roofs repaired or renewed .. .. .	16
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt .. .. .	9
Walls (External) repaired or rebuilt .. .. .	9
Walls (External) repointed, rendered, etc. .. .. .	22
E.G.'s and R.W.P.'s cleansed, repaired or renewed ..	18
Yards paved or repaired .. .. .	1
Walls (Internal) repaired .. .. .	31
Ceilings repaired or renewed .. .. .	10
Floors repaired or renewed .. .. .	6
Stairs repaired .. .. .	1
Windows, etc., repaired or renewed .. .. .	19
Firegrates and stoves repaired or renewed .. .. .	6
Sinks provided or renewed .. .. .	5
Dampness remedied .. .. .	8
Doors, etc., repaired or renewed .. .. .	5
Washing facilities provided to food premises .. ..	1
Boundary walls repaired or rebuilt .. .. .	4
Food preparing premises cleansed or repaired .. ..	1
Treatment of woodwork against woodworm .. .. .	1
Food Stores provided or improved .. .. .	3

*Drainage :*

Drains repaired .. .. .	6
Inspection chambers provided or repaired .. .. .	1
Gullies provided or renewed .. .. .	3

*Sanitary Conveniences :*

Conveniences repaired, reconstructed or improved ..	8
Light and ventilation improved .. .. .	3
Sanitary conveniences cleansed or limewashed .. ..	3
New W.C. basins fixed .. .. .	2

*Water Supplies :*

Internal mains supply provided .. .. .	1
--	---

*Miscellaneous :*

Rats and Mice—Premises treated .. .. .	105
Accumulations removed .. .. .	1

## SERVICE OF NOTICES

Number outstanding 31st December, 1955 .. .. .	67
Informal Notices to execute work or abate nuisances .. .. .	41
<i>Statutory Notices—</i>	
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 24—Maintenance of Certain Lengths of Public Sewer .. .. .	3
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 39—Drainage of Existing Buildings .. .. .	1
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93—Statutory Nuisances .. .. .	4
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9—Repair of Dwelling Houses .. .. .	6
	14
	122
Number complied with .. .. .	70
	52

### *Legal Proceedings—*

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

## HOUSING

### *Clearance Areas :*

The first phase of the five-year slum clearance programme was dealt with during the year, by five Clearance Orders, involving 33 houses, viz.

#### *Hatton Gardens Clearance Area.*

Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5, Hatton Gardens .. .. . 4 houses

#### *Oxford Street, Cross Street and Wood Street Clearance Area.*

Nos. 33, 34, 35, and 36, Oxford Street ;

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Cross Street ;

Nos. 52, 53, and 54, Wood Street .. .. . 12 houses

#### *Cannon Street Clearance Area.*

Nos. 20a, 21, 21a, 22, 22a, 23, 24, 25,

26, and 27, Cannon Street .. .. . 10 houses

#### *Jackson's Lane (No. 5) Clearance Area.*

Nos. 2, 2a, and 3, Jackson's Lane .. .. . 3 houses

#### *Orchard Terrace Clearance Area.*

Nos. 8, 9, 10, and 11, Orchard Terrace .. .. . 4 houses

Two of the Orders were the subject of objections and an enquiry was held by the Ministry on 18th December. All the Orders were subsequently confirmed without modification. The Minister, however, directed that payments be made under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of well-maintained property in five cases.

Further progress was made towards the clearance of sites in Finedon, and it is anticipated that the re-development of some of the larger areas by the Council will be commenced during the current year.

New financial measures affecting Slum Clearance work were introduced by the Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956. This provides for the payment of compensation to certain owner-occupiers and to occupiers of business premises, which are vacated as a result of clearance or demolition



orders. It also provides for increased payments under Section 42 of the 1936 Act for well-maintained property. These new provisions are designed to mitigate much of the hardship which has hitherto resulted from large-scale slum clearance action.

During the year 1956/57 the amount of payments made under Section 42 in respect of well-maintained property was £215-10-0.

### *Rehousing :*

During the year 16 families (56 persons) displaced from Clearance Areas and houses subject to closing orders were re-housed by the Housing Committee.

Eighty-one applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, amounting to £11,310 were approved by the Housing Committee during the year, making a total of 198 since the inception of the scheme. It was again significant that most of these related to the provision of bathrooms and hot water systems in owner-occupied properties. In many cases I have, in co-operation with the Engineer and Surveyor, advised on questions as to the reasonable life of properties, general standard of fitness, drainage and similar matters. Sixty visits were made to properties in connection with these applications.

The provision of a fixed bath is generally regarded as essential for a habitable house today, and that houses which lack this facility are below standard.

It is estimated that there are in the district some 3,500 privately-owned houses (excluding those with an estimated life of fifteen years or less), which have no fixed bath and in which provision could be made. Most of the houses are of the smaller type with a rateable value of less than £24. There is no doubt that this amenity needs to be included in the standard of fitness for a habitable dwelling.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1956.

### *Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses :*

(i)	Houses inspected for housing defects	..	..	..	..	118
	Number of inspection made	..	..	..	..	329
(ii)	<i>Clearance Areas :</i>					
	Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	22
	Number of persons displaced	..	..	..	..	48
	Number of families displaced	..	..	..	..	14
(iii)	<i>Remedy of Defects :</i>					
	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action under the Housing or Public Health Acts					10
(iv)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936 :</i>					
	(a) Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	..	..	4
	(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—					
	(i) by owners	..	..	..	..	5
	(ii) by local authority in default of owners	..				—

(v) *Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936 :*

(a) *Section 9.*

(i) Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	6
(ii) Houses rendered fit after service of notices—	
(a) by owners .. .. .	3
(b) by local authority in default of owners	3

(b) *Sections 11-13.*

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	1
Houses Demolished .. .. .	—
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking under Section 11 .. .. .	2
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) .. .. .	2
Number of persons displaced .. .. .	8
Number of families displaced .. .. .	2

## AIR POLLUTION

This subject again engaged the attention of the Health Committee during the year. As regards the main source of industrial pollution from the iron works, there was further evidence of a general improvement in the dust problem in this part of the town. This is shown from the results of the deposit gauges especially those at the Hillside Road and Finedon Road sites. The combined monthly mean deposit for these two gauges was 21 tons per square mile compared with 39 tons per square mile for 1955. This figure also now compares favourably with those of other industrial areas associated with the iron and steel industry.

The amount of material collected by the furnace cyclones is very considerable indeed, and dust grading analyses carried out by the Company at the beginning of the year showed that under normal conditions of operation, only a small amount of very fine material is left in the gas discharged to the atmosphere.

The general trend in pollution from this source during this, and the previous five years is further shown by the accompanying tables and graphs.

In addition to the four deposit gauges, two lead peroxide instruments were operated throughout the year for the estimation of atmospheric sulphur. One of these is sited in the centre of the Croyland Estate which is entirely residential and the other at Broad Green, a residential and light industrial area. It will be seen, by comparison that the figures for these two areas were very similar. Sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere results mainly from the burning of bituminous coal especially in non-smokeless domestic fires and it is therefore natural to expect a higher concentration during the winter months. The figures shown are typical of towns similar in character to Wellingborough. While more attention is usually directed against nuisances from smoke and grit, pollution by sulphur compounds is generally more insidious in that it is invisible and has a deleterious effect on human beings and buildings.

Copies of the monthly analytical reports of the gauges and instruments were forwarded to the Fuel Research Station for inclusion in the national records.



During the year the Council were represented on the Standing Conference of local authorities and other bodies participating in the investigation of atmospheric pollution by the Chairman of the Health Committee and myself. Two meetings were held.

Smoke emissions from certain industrial chimneys were investigated on several occasions during the year, and a few complaints were received. In most cases it was found that excessive emission during short periods was due almost entirely to inefficient operation of boilers, rather than to any inherent defects in the plant itself.

Deposited Matter (tons per square mile per month)  
January—December, 1956.

TABLE D.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Hillside Road</i>	<i>Finedon Road (Cooling Tower)</i>	<i>Highfield Hospital</i>	<i>Council Depot</i>
January	26.79	49.11	11.63	12.11
February	25.06	14.39	10.12	—
March	20.34	8.57	10.69	12.77
April	36.26	18.31	15.52	14.70
May	14.96	15.80	8.75	9.97
June	16.10	17.50	9.19	10.46
July	19.49	20.41	28.40	11.05
August	10.92	24.97	11.42	7.95
September	13.40	17.45	5.63	8.82
October	14.74	24.13	7.59	10.35
November	22.75	15.52	7.98	8.93
December	15.41	43.16	10.89	11.01
Average per month	19.69	22.44	11.49	10.74

Meteorological Data  
Table showing monthly rainfall and wind directions

TABLE E.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Rainfall (Highfield Hospital) Ins.</i>	<i>Recorded wind directions shown in percentages</i>							
		<i>N.</i>	<i>N.E.</i>	<i>E.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>S.W.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>N.W.</i>
Jan.	2.97	10.8	5.3	1.8	3.6	17.8	32.1	21.4	7.2
Feb.	0.32	35.1	24.5	7.0	—	1.8	15.8	8.8	7.1
March	0.78	8.5	11.0	11.8	13.6	25.4	13.6	11.9	3.4
April	0.90	30.0	26.6	11.7	6.7	5.0	5.0	8.3	6.7
May	0.52	10.0	11.7	8.3	—	13.3	26.7	25.0	5.0
June	2.69	20.3	10.2	1.7	3.4	10.2	11.3	23.7	18.7
July	4.81	6.7	8.3	11.7	6.7	8.3	26.7	23.3	8.3
Aug.	4.05	13.7	4.9	9.8	3.3	3.3	23.0	41.0	1.6
Sept.	1.34	5.2	12.1	12.1	6.9	17.2	31.0	13.8	1.7
Oct.	1.42	16.1	12.9	—	3.2	8.1	21.0	30.6	8.1
Nov.	0.64	18.3	13.3	3.3	1.7	5.0	30.0	11.7	16.7
Dec.	2.61	—	—	8.8	12.3	17.15	43.9	14.0	3.5



# Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method

January—December, 1955

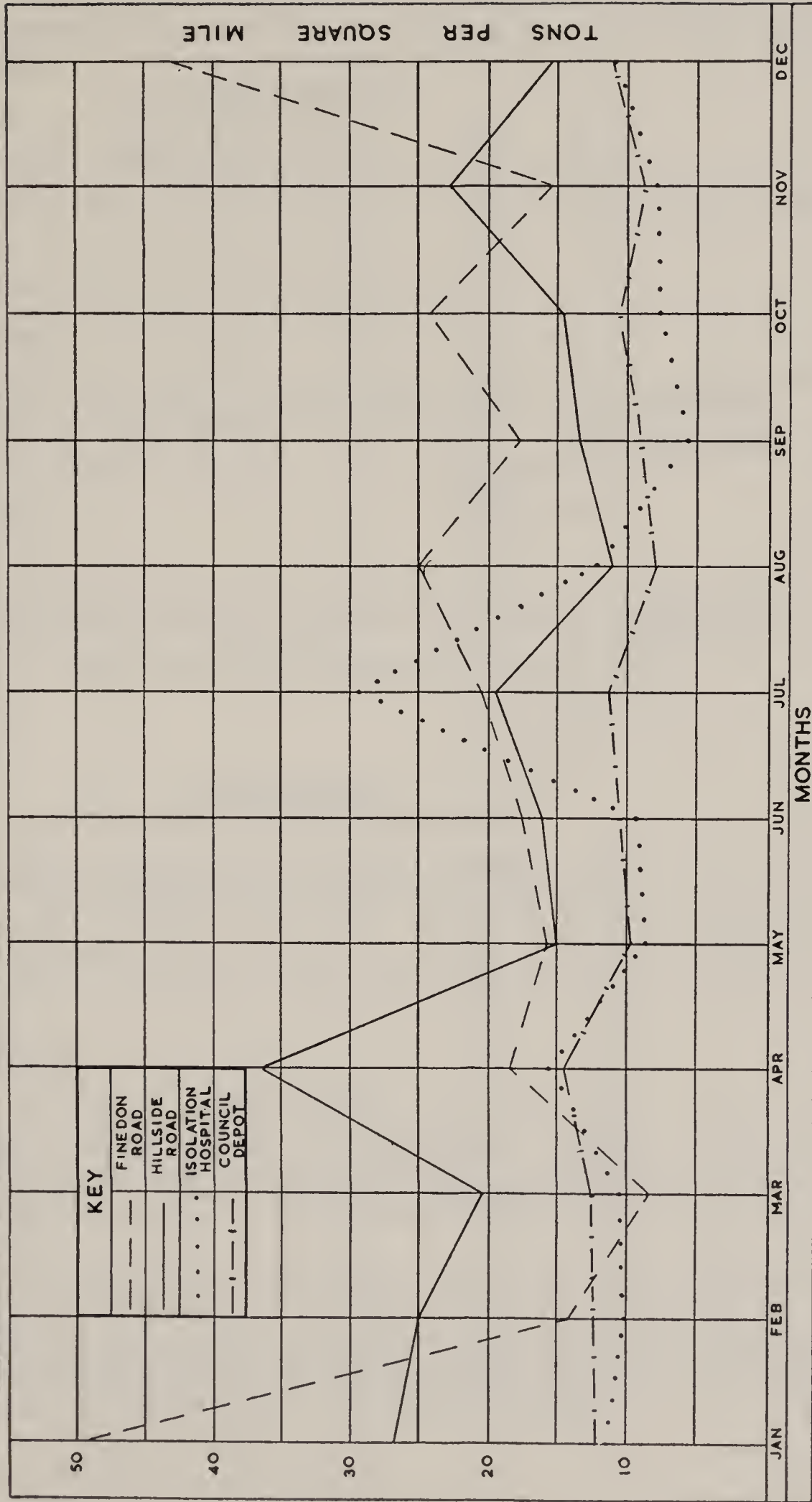
TABLE F.

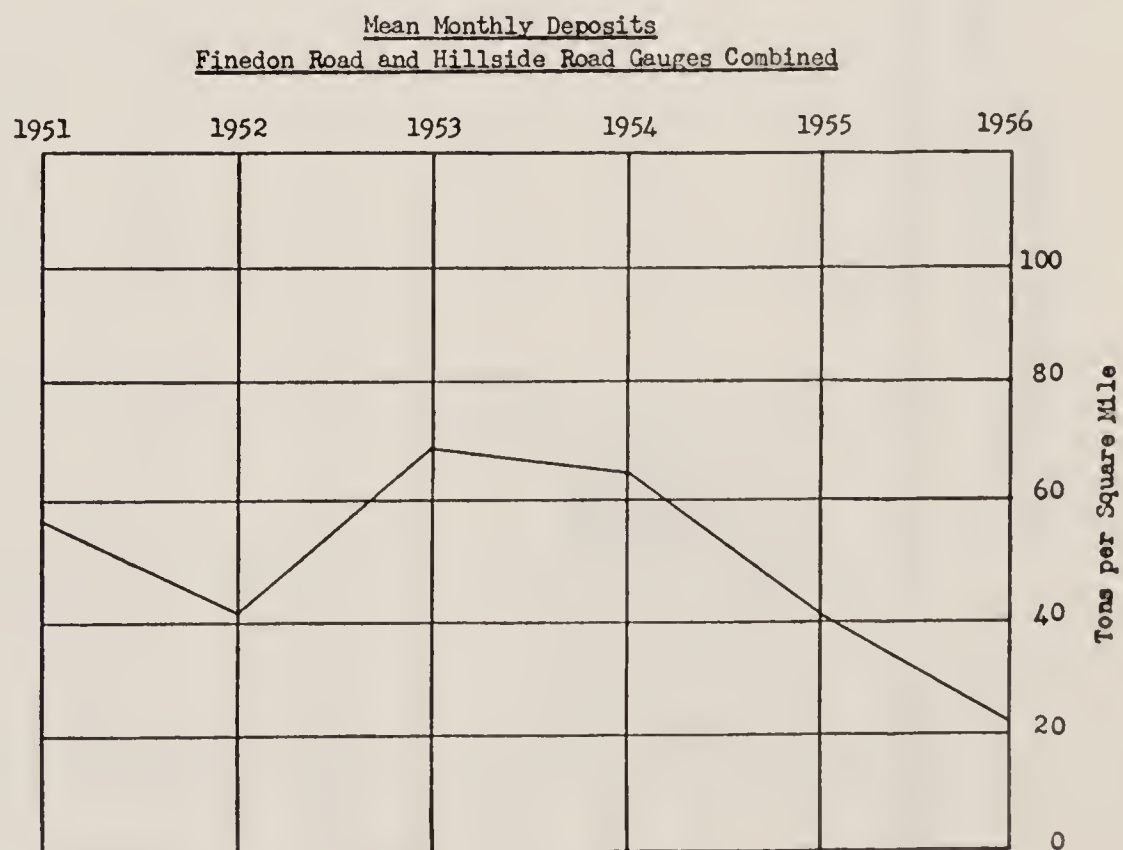
<i>Month</i>	<i>Weight of SO<sub>3</sub> collected mg/100 sq. cm/day</i>	
	<i>Broad Green</i>	<i>St. Andrew's Crescent</i>
January	2.02	1.77
February	1.77	1.40
March	1.40	1.38
April	0.95	0.73
May	0.50	No record
June	0.44	0.40
July	0.40	0.36
August	0.36	0.45
September	0.58	0.56
October	0.64	0.90
November	1.25	1.49
December	1.48	1.38

# WELLINGBOROUGH      URBAN      DISTRICT

AIR      POLLUTION      1956

MEASUREMENTS BY STANDARD DEPOSIT GAUGES SHOWING TOTAL DEPOSITED MATTER IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE







## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK AND DAIRIES :

#### (a) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

The number of registered dairies (other than at farms) and milk distributors in the Urban District at 31st December, 1956, were as follows :—

Dairies	..	..	..	4
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	25

No applications for registration were received during the year.

#### (b) *Sale of Milk under Special Designations.*

##### *Licensing :*

Thirty-six licences were granted during the year authorising the sale of milk under prescribed designations, viz.

(i) <i>Dealer's Licences</i>	—	Tuberculin Tested	..	10
		Pasteurised	.. ..	9
		Sterilised	.. ..	12

##### (ii) *Supplementary Licences* — in relation to milk retailed in the Urban District from establishments outside :

Tuberculin Tested	..	2
Pasteurised	.. ..	2
Sterilised	.. ..	1

There are now two pasteurising dairies in the Urban District, one having discontinued to operate during the year. The larger has a modern H.T.S.T. plant with a present output of approximately four thousand gallons a day. Practically all the milk consumed in the district is either tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised.

#### (c) *Sampling.*

Seventy-two samples of milk were submitted for testing to the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton. Details are given in Table G. 64% of all samples tested were satisfactory, while 82% of samples relating to designated milk passed the prescribed tests.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the County Agricultural Executive Committee is responsible, under the Regulations, for control of dairy farms. During the year it was found necessary to refer to the Committee for investigation the cases of four producers, whose milk repeatedly gave unsatisfactory results.

#### (d) *Testing of Washed Milk Bottles.*

Twenty-four washed bottle samples were tested for sterility at the Public Health Laboratory. All were satisfactory, *i.e.* with a mean bottle count of less than 600.

TABLE G.

<i>Class of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Samples Tested</i>	<i>Tests</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	
			<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Pasteurised	5	Phosphatase	5	—
		Methylene Blue	5	—
Sterilised	1	Turbidity	1	—
Tuberculin Tested	22	Methylene Blue	17	5
Raw Undesignated	44	Methylene Blue	23	21

64% of samples tested were satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM :

The number of ice-cream premises registered at 31st December, 1956, was :—

Manufacture, storage and sale .. ..	3
Storage and sale only .. ..	111

Seven samples of ice-cream and water ices were tested by the Public Health Laboratory. Results are shown in Table H.

TABLE H.

<i>Class of Mix</i>	<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Provisional Grade</i>			
			I.	II.	III.	IV.
Pasteurised	Pre-packed	3	2	1	—	—
Pasteurised	Bulk or opened	—	—	—	—	—
Cold	Bulk or opened	2	1	—	1	—
Cold	Pre-packed	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		5	3	1	1	—
Percentages	1956		60.0%	20.0%	20.0%	—
Percentages	1955		38.9%	44.5%	11.1%	5.5%
Ice Lollies (Water Ices)		2	Satisfactory. B. Coli absent in 1/10 ml., 1 ml. and 10 ml.			



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES :

Renewal licences were granted in respect of the eight private slaughterhouses, seven of which were in regular use during the year. Most of the premises are old and rather out of date, being attached to retail butchers' shops, and although certain repairs and minor improvements were carried out at the time they were re-licensed in 1954, they are far from satisfactory from a long term point of view. It is, however, anticipated that regulations will be introduced in the near future, prescribing minimum statutory standards for the construction, layout and equipment of slaughterhouses.

Three of the slaughterhouses, in addition to catering for the requirements of the occupiers, are also used to meet the needs of other local butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 15,940, an increase of 11% over 1955. This figure represents a total throughput of 7,517 cattle units (one cattle unit represents 1 cattle beast, or 3 calves, or 5 sheep or 2 pigs). Further particulars are given in Table I.

## MEAT INSPECTION :

1,004 visits were made to slaughterhouses during the year for the purpose of routine post-mortem inspection of animals following slaughter. It was again found necessary to undertake much of the work outside normal office hours. Slaughtering frequently takes place in the evenings, and as the present Meat Regulations permit the removal of carcasses and offal three hours after slaughter, except between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. it is necessary, in most cases, to carry out inspection as soon as possible after slaughtering.

Approximately 35% of the meat and offal inspected is consumed outside the Urban District. Most of this, however, is from one slaughterhouse belonging to a food factory, where a large number of pigs only are slaughtered.

Condemned meat is regularly removed for processing into fertilizers by contractors dealing in butchers' by-products. As a precautionary measure, most of it is stained before removal.

*Cysticercus Bovis*.—A special routine is carried out in the case of all beef carcasses for the detection of *Cysticercus Bovis*. This parasite, which is the cystic form of a tapeworm which inhabites humans, was almost unknown in Britain until some ten years ago. Since then numerous cases have been recorded throughout the country. Five cases of viable cysts were detected during the year in the local slaughterhouses. In one case where diagnosis was doubtful, a specimen was submitted to the Veterinary Laboratory of the Ministry at Weybridge and the case was subsequently confirmed. The cysts are destroyed by prolonged freezing, and in accordance with recommended practice the carcasses were subjected to cold storage treatment at a temperature not exceeding 20°F. for a period of three weeks.



TABLE I.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>			<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Bulls</i>	<i>Steers</i>	<i>Heifers</i>					
Number killed ..	—	398	187	2	4	2,484	12,865	15,940
Number inspected	—	398	187	2	4	2,484	12,865	15,940
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	52	20	—	—	14	375	461
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. ..	—	13.0	10.7	—	—	0.6	2.9	2.9
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	28	9	—	—	—	281	318
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	7.5	5.3	—	—	—	2.2	2.0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>								
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	5
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	5
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE J.

CARCASSES CONDEMNED AS TOTALLY UNFIT

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Steers</i>	<i>Heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Peritonitis—Septic	—	—	—	—	—	1
Swine Erysipelas— Acute	—	—	—	—	—	1
Oedema—General- ized	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis— Generalized	—	2	1	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	—	2	1	—	—	4

TABLE K.

TOTAL WEIGHTS OF MEAT AND ORGANS CONDEMNED

	<i>Other Diseases</i>				<i>Tuberculosis</i>			
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Carcase Meat	1	19	2	16	—	5	3	24
Organs and Viscera	—	14	—	25	1	3	1	7
TOTAL .. .. .	2	13	3	13	1	9	1	3

Total Weight Condemned—4 Tons, 3 Cwts., 0 Qrs., 16 Lbs.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Number of Animals Infested .. .. .	5
Sites—External Masseter Muscles ..	4
Internal Masseter Muscles .. .. .	—
Heart Musculature .. .. .	1
Other Sites .. .. .	—

OTHER FOOD INSPECTION :

Particulars of tinned and other food rejected as unfit for human consumption are given in Table L. Seventy-nine visits were made to shops and other premises for the purpose, and 205 certificates of condemnation were given.

Two cases were the subject of special report : One concerned the condemnation of a large quantity of a particular brand of imported canned meat of Polish origin. 90% of the tins bore markings indicating the same date and source of manufacture. Following a report to the Health Committee, the matter was taken up with the importers. It appeared that an excessive quantity of the shipment had been condemned and the importers referred the matter to the manufacturers.

A further case relating to the condemnation of a consignment of fresh herrings which had been heavily contaminated by oily-filth was reported to the Ministry of Health. It appeared that this was an unusual occurrence and a case where the fish had been contaminated on the vessel and had been marketed in the rush of the moment.

TABLE L.  
PARTICULARS OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS EXAMINED  
AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Weight lbs.</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Weight lbs.</i>
<i>Tinned Goods :</i>		<i>General Items (Cont.)</i>	
Fish	7	Flour and Cereals	9
Fruit	475	Fruit	100
Fruit Juices	3	Hams	28
Ham	96	Imported Carcase	
Jams and Preserves	6	Meat	75
Meat (various)	1246	Jams and Preserves	7
Milk (Evaporated)	7	Jellies	1
Puddings	1	Pickles	13
Soups	5	Potatoes	63
Vegetables	151	Poultry	4
		Salt	1
<i>General Items :</i>		Sausages	64
Bacon	116	Vegetables	56
Cheese	66		
Confectionery	6		
Fish (Wet)	544		

Total Weight—1 Ton, 8 Cwts., 0 Qrs., 14 Lbs.



SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933-1954 :

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year was 34. All licenses are now granted for a period of one year. No contraventions were noted.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 :

The Northamptonshire County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act relating to the compositional quality and labelling of food and drugs, but your chief public health inspector is also an authorised officer for all purposes of the Act, and may take samples in special circumstances should the occasion arise.

The following extract from a report of the chief inspector of weights and measures, giving particulars of samples taken in the Urban District, has been supplied by the County Council.

"Milk .. .. .	87	<i>Brought forward</i>	117
Cream .. .. .	1	Blackcurrant Syrup ..	1
Ice-Cream .. .. .	2	Dripping .. .. .	1
Butter .. .. .	3	Tinned Soup .. .. .	1
Margarine .. .. .	4	Custard Powder .. .. .	1
Sausages .. .. .	6	Lard .. .. .	1
James and Marmalade ..	5	Mincemeat .. .. .	1
Sweets .. .. .	3	Baking Powder .. .. .	1
Golden Raising Powder ..	1	Wines and Spirits .. ..	3
Self-Raising Flour .. ..	1	Soft Drinks .. .. .	2
Tinned Fruit .. .. .	2	Apples .. .. .	1
Pancake Mixture .. .. .	1	Laxative Tablets .. .. .	1
Cheese .. .. .	1	Aspirin Tablets .. .. .	1
<i>Carried forward</i>		TOTAL .. .. .	132

Remarks :

6 of the 87 milks were slightly below the presumptive standard for either fat or solids-not-fat, but none of the samples were adulterated. No legal action was necessary.

All the miscellaneous samples were genuine as to composition and description. Where standards were prescribed for any of the foods they were well met."

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955 :

The year under review is the first full year of the operation of these Regulations. At the outset, all sections of the food and catering trade, including schools and factory canteens were supplied with full particulars, and talks and discussions were had with some of the trade organisations during the year on the effect and application of the Regulations. Every opportunity has also been taken during the various visits to food premises of inculcating the importance and value of sound hygienic practice.

It had, however, been hoped that more positive steps could have been taken to secure the higher standards required in food premises. Nevertheless a number of voluntary alterations and improvements were carried out in addition to those resulting from official action. On general survey, there is

little doubt that many shopkeepers have not full realised the scope of the Regulations or that their implementation will of necessity involve a certain amount of expenditure.

*Contraventions.*

During the year five written warnings were given for offences relating to smoking in food premises.

Legal proceedings were instituted in the case of one shopkeeper, a butcher, for cigarette smoking while handling dressed poultry. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £5. This case was the first of its kind in the area and received considerable publicity both locally and in the national trade publications.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF FOOD PREMISES

Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels	..	..	15
Staff Canteens	..	..	11
Butchers	..	..	39
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	25
Fish—Wet	..	..	4
Fish—Fried	..	..	14
Grocers	..	..	39
General Stores	..	..	71
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	..	..	19
Sweet Shops	..	..	19
Public Houses	..	..	47
Clubs	..	..	10
Other Food Manufacturers	..	..	2

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, preserved foods, etc., is 37.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Rechargeable works relating to the repair and maintenance of sewers serving more than one property were carried out by the Council in one case, four properties being affected. From Table B. it will be seen that 345 visits were made during the year in connection with the supervision and testing of drainage works. 78 cases of obstructed drains and sewers were also dealt with.

Cesspools were emptied on 47 occasions under arrangements with Rushden U.D.C. The cost of the work is rechargeable to the occupier.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Four licences were granted authorising the stationing and use of caravans on three sites in the Urban District. In addition, six small sites were occupied by travelling showmen as winter quarters. The sites were inspected on various occasions during the year and were the subject of special report to the Health Committee. All were reasonably well maintained.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

25 visits were made to premises in connection with the investigation of cases of infectious diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

No. of houses or parts of houses disinfected :

(a) Following Infectious Disease	..	..	15
(b) On special request (other causes)	..	..	2
No of articles disinfected	..	..	95
No of articles destroyed	..	..	42

Articles of bedding and clothing requiring steam disinfection continued to be dealt with by Rushden U.D.C. under standing arrangements.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Premises registered for the use of filling materials	..	Nil
Premises licensed for (a) Manufacture of rag flock	..	Nil
(b) Storage only	..	1

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Three licenses for the keeping of pet shops were granted during the year. Conditions were satisfactory.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The total number of registered factories in the Urban District at the end of the year was 208, an increase of two during the year. This figure was made up as follows :—

Factories with Mechanical Power	..	..	179
Factories without Mechanical Power	..	..	20
Other registrable works	..	..	9

Since the end of the war there has been a decrease of nearly 20% in the number of permanent factories. The majority of those which have discontinued have, however, been of the smaller type employing less than twelve persons.

During the year 39 inspections were made and 5 written notices served requiring defects to be remedied. They were :—

Sanitary Conveniences :	Insufficient	Found 1	Remedied 1
	Unsuitable or		
	Defective	„ 6	„ 7

Eight notifications of infringements were referred by H.M. Inspector.

### *Homework.*

Half-yearly lists were received from 34 employers and 5 outside authorities notifying the employment of 413 outworkers in the Urban District (August List). Particulars relating to 108 outworkers were also notified to other local authorities.



## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

### *Rodent Control.*

The following tables show the extent of the work carried out under this section. A review of the figures for the previous five years shows that there has been a steady decline in the number of infestations found, from 267 in 1951 to 131—a reduction of about 50%. The number of major infestations was only 11, the lowest recorded figure. While the position may therefore be regarded as reasonably satisfactory, there is a need for a continual check to be made on places which, by their character are potential sources of infestation. This is especially so in the case of premises associated with food, as food poisoning organisms, particularly those of the *Salmonella* group, are commonly found in rats and mice.

The Council's two refuse tips at Gypsy Lane, Irchester, and Croyland Road, have been regularly attended to.

The bi-annual treatments of the public sewers were carried out in accordance with the Ministry's requirements: in addition to which certain areas were test baited.

The services of the rodent operative were again made available to the Urban District Councils of Raunds and Irthlingborough.

### *Surface Infestation.*

#### (a) Premises Inspected :

(i) As a result of notification	..	..	..	103	
(ii) Routine Visit or Survey	..	..	..	172	
				<hr/>	275

#### (b) No of Infestations found :

(i) Rats—Major	..	..	..	..	11	
(ii) Rats—Minor	..	..	..	..	73	
(iii) Mice only	..	..	..	..	47	
					<hr/>	131

#### (c) No of Infested Properties treated by Local Authority :

(i) Private Dwellings	..	..	..	..	56	
(ii) Business and Industrial Premises (including those under Servicing Agreements)	..				31	
(iii) Agricultural Properties	..	..	..		—	
(iv) Local Authority Properties	..	..	..		18	
					<hr/>	105

#### (d) Total Visits made by Rodent Operative : .. .. . 1,158

### *Annual Servicing Agreements.*

				1956	1955
Number in force	..	..	..	12	13
Total Value	..	..	..	£147	£157

TABLE M.  
 Sewer Maintenance.

<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Wellingboro'</i>	<i>Finedon</i>
<i>First—(February / March, 1956)</i>		
Number of manholes, etc., baited	138	59
Number showing infestation (bait take)	80 (58%)	39 (68%)
<i>Second—(September / October, 1956)</i>		
Number of manholes, etc., baited	169	58
Number showing infestation (bait take)	53 (31%)	20 (34%)

VERMINOUS DISINFESTATION

12 cases of verminous infestation were notified and dealt with during the year, these included :

Ants	..	..	5	Fleas	..	..	4
Bugs	..	..	1	Lice	..	..	1
Cockroaches	..		1				













